

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: GREECE - NOON BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF NOON BRIEFING APRIL 2 DEALING
WITH GREECE:

BEGIN QUOTE

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARAMANLIS'
ASSERTION YESTERDAY THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY
REPRESENTS A DANGER TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE?

A: IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE DEFENSE SUPPORT AGREEMENT WITH
TURKEY DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY DANGER TO THE NATO ALLIANCE.
QUITE THE CONTRARY. WHAT IT PROPOSES TO DO IN OUR DEFENSE
RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY IS DONE FOR THE SAME REASON IN
OUR DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE. IT IS CONSISTENT
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WITH HELPING THESE TWO COUNTRIES MEET THEIR NATO OBLI-

GATIONS AND WITH STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

I BELIEVE ALSO THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THIS AGREEMENT WILL NOT IN ANY WAY UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

AND I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO NOTE THAT, ESPECIALLY SINCE 1974, WE HAVE BEEN A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO GREECE'S OWN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSES THROUGH AN EXPANDED MILITARY SUPPLY ACQUISITION PROGRAM. UNDER THIS PROGRAM GREECE HAS PURCHASED A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT FROM THIS COUNTRY, AS WELL AS OBTAINING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT FROM SOURCES IN WESTERN EUROPE DURING A PERIOD WHEN TURKEY WAS NOT ABLE TO BUY ANY AIRCRAFT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

MOREOVER, GREECE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY.
END QUOTE KISSINGER

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